

**AEOLIDIELLA BERGH, 1867 (GASTROPODA,
OPISTHOBRANCHIA): PROPOSALS TO CLARIFY THE
TYPE SPECIES OF THE GENUS. Z.N.(S.) 1986**

By Gregory H. Brown (Zoology Department,
University of Bristol, U.K.)

The purpose of the present application is to clarify the type species of the genus *Aeolidiella* Bergh, 1867 (*Vidensk. Meddr. Dansk Naturh. Foren.*, p.99) by the suppression under the plenary powers of the nomen dubium *Eolida soemmerringii* F.S. Leuckart, 1828 (*Breves Anim.*, p. 16) and the designation of a new type species for the genus.

2. In Opinion 780, the generic name *Aeolidiella* Bergh, 1867 was placed on the Official List as name number 1720, and its type species *Eolida soemmerringii* F.S. Leuckart, 1828, selected by Suter, 1913 (*Man. N.Z. Moll.*, p. 581) was entered on the Official List of Specific Names as name number 2152.

3. However, Leuckart's specimens are lost and doubts have been expressed about the true identity of *E. soemmerringii* Leuckart. Bergh in 1864 (*Anatomiske Bidrag til Kundskaben om Aeolidierne*, p.203) described the anatomy of a specimen from the type locality, Cète (Sète) in France, which he identified as *Aeolida soemmeringii* Leuckart (an incorrect spelling used consistently by Bergh and some subsequent authors). Bergh in 1867 created the genus *Aeolidiella* to accommodate the animal he had investigated in 1864 but in 1882 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 1882, p. 8) he decided that it was in fact a new species and that Leuckart's species *Eolida soemmerringii*, was a synonym of *Amphorina caerulea* (Montagu). This latter species was originally described under the binomen *Doris caerulea* Montagu, 1804 (*Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, vol. 7, p. 78) and, in Opinion 777 (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 23, pp. 95-97, 1966), was placed on the Official List of Specific Names as name number 2146 and as the type species of *Trinchesia* Ihering, 1879 (*Zool. Anz.*, vol. 2, p. 137). Thus Bergh in 1882, believing that his new genus *Aeolidiella* had been founded on a misidentified specimen, created what he thought would be acceptable as a new specific name: *Aeolidiella soemmeringii* Bergh (non Leuckart).

4. In practice *A. soemmeringii* Bergh, 1882 non Leuckart has been ignored by virtually all subsequent authors, while *Eolida soemmerringii* F.S. Leuckart, 1828 has been consistently quoted as the type species of the genus. Because Leuckart's specimens are lost and Bergh's specimen was totally destroyed during dissection, it is impossible to ascertain:

- (i) whether *Eolida soemmerringii* Leuckart is a synonym of

Doris caerulea Montagu, or

- (ii) whether either Leuckart's or Bergh's specimens are referable to any of the present recognised species of *Aeolidiella*. The only certainty is that Bergh's anatomical description indicates that his specimen belonged to the genus *Aeolidiella* as generally employed by authors in recent years throughout the world.

It is therefore desirable to suppress both nominal species *E. soemmerringii* Leuckart and *A. soemmerringii* Bergh while designating a new type species for the genus.

5. In 1969, Tardy (*Bull. Inst. Oceanog. Monaco*, vol. 68, p. 34) suggested that *A. soemmerringii* 'Leuckart' Bergh, 1864 non Leuckart, 1828 may be a synonym of *Aeolidiella alderi* (Cocks, 1852, *Naturalist*, vol. 2, p. 1) and Lemche (pers. comm.) was convinced that such a synonymy was justified. Therefore, a relevant solution would involve the designation of *A. alderi* (Cocks, 1852) as a new type species for the genus.

6. Cocks (1852) based his type description of *A. alderi* on several specimens collected near Falmouth, England, but only one of Cocks' specimens sent to Alder has been preserved, and this is in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History). There is no reason to assume that this animal is the holotype or even a syntype, and it is badly damaged, the radula and some of the visceral organs having been removed. I therefore propose to select an intact specimen, 29 mm in length alive and collected by Mr. D.R. Seaward at Portland, Dorset on 2nd March, 1980 to be designated as the neotype of *Eolis alderi* Cocks, 1852. This specimen is deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), No. 198093.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
 - (a) to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Aeolidiella* Bergh, 1867, made prior to the ruling here requested, and having done so, to designate *Eolis alderi* Cocks, 1852 to be the type species of that genus;
 - (b) to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (i) *soemmerringii* Leuckart, 1828, as published in the binomen *Eolida soemmerringii*;
 - (ii) *soemmerringii* Bergh, 1882, as published in the binomen *Aeolidiella soemmerringii*;

- (2) to amend entry no. 1720 on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology to read: '*Aeolidiella* Bergh, 1867 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers, *Eolis alderi* Cocks, 1852;
- (3) to place the specific name *alderi* Cocks, 1852, as published in the binomen *Eolis alderi* (specific name of type species of *Aeolidiella* Bergh, 1867) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to delete entry no. 2152 from the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *soemmerringii* Leuckart, 1828, as published in the binomen *Eolida soemmerringii*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(b)(i) above;
 - (b) *soemmeringii* Bergh, 1882, as published in the binomen *Aeolidiella soemmeringii*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(b)(ii) above.